AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (currently amended) An automated, computer-implemented method for carrying out financial transactions within a Central Securities Depository (CSD), comprising an automated, computer-implemented clearing process and an automated, computer-implemented settlement process, the clearing process preparing a <u>financial</u> transaction for the settlement process using the following automated, computer-implemented sub-process steps:

- <u>providing a set of settlement rules to be followed in the clearing process,</u>

- selecting<u>, by a computer process,</u> a settlement rule <u>from the set of settlement rules</u> to be followed in the clearing process, the <u>settlement</u> rule defining how the <u>financial</u> transaction is to be settled,

- defining<u>, by a computer process,</u> a settlement ~~obligation~~ <u>instruction</u> group including a number of settlement instructions to be settled at the same time<u>, where the settlement instructions describe obligations of participants to the financial transaction,</u>

- <u>following the selecting and defining steps,</u> locking-in<u>, by a computer process,</u> ~~of~~ the assets to which the <u>financial</u> transaction concerns, the locking-in having the effect of reserving said assets for a specific settlement,

and the settlement process includes the following automated, computer-implemented sub-process steps:

- <u>providing a set of transfer instructions,</u>

2

- selecting, by a computer process, transfer instructions ~~from the set of transfer instructions~~ for all settlement ~~obligations~~ instructions belonging to said settlement ~~obligation~~ instruction group, said transfer instructions being irrevocable instructions to transfer the locked-in assets between participants in the CSD,

- checking, by a computer process, that said transfer instructions are carried out successfully to complete settlement of the financial transaction, and

- following the selecting and checking steps, reporting, by a computer process, the result of the settlement to ~~the~~ participants involved in the financial transaction.

2. (currently amended) An automated system for carrying out financial transactions within a Central Securities Depository (CSD), said system comprising:

a computer having an input and a output,

wherein the computer is configured to perform an automated function for a clearing process and an automated function for a settlement process, the computer being configured to implement the clearing process function ~~by preparing~~ for a financial transaction ~~for the settlement process~~ using the following computer implemented sub-functions:

- an automated sub-function for the selection from a set of provided settlement rules of a settlement rule to be ~~utilised~~ used in the clearing process, the settlement rule defining how the financial transaction is to be settled,

- an automated sub-function for the definition of a settlement ~~obligation~~ instruction group including a number of settlement instructions to be settled at the same time, where the settlement instructions describe obligations of participants involved in the financial transaction, and

- an automated sub-function for locking-in the assets to which the financial transaction concern, the locking-in having the effect of the system reserving said assets for a specific settlement, and

  wherein the computer is configured to perform the settlement process function using the following computer-implemented sub-functions:

- an automated sub-function for selecting transfer instructions from a set of provided transfer instructions for all settlement obligations instructions belonging to said settlement obligation instruction group, said transfer instructions being irrevocable instructions to transfer the locked-in assets between participants in the CSD,

- an automated sub-function for checking that said transfer instructions are carried out successfully to complete the settlement of the financial transaction, and

- an automated sub-function for reporting the result of the settlement to the participants involved in the financial transaction.

3.   Canceled.

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